DEVONSHIRE HOUSE
Friends' Reference
BISHOPSGATE WITHOUT

THese few Lines are to all such as have an hand in Persecuting the Innocent People of God (called *Quakers*) for the Exercise of their pure Conscience towards God, whom Christ Jesus the Light hath redeemed, and is redeeming by the blood of Cleansing, into that spiritual Worship which he bore testimony to in his day when he was in the flesh; and all other Worships we deny, but that which stands in *Spirit* and in Truth, and redeems up to God, out of Sin and Iniquity, and brings to know the Translation from Death to Life, and to leads to the new birth, which gives an Entrance into the kingdom of heaven; and so we coming to know a measure of the Son of God, to live and bear rule in us, we come to inherit substance, and therefore can we not go with you to sit down in your dead Forms, nor be content with those empty shadowes, nor feed upon those Husks, because there is no life in them: For the Lord hath brought us to know the living bread which came down from heaven, *which bread is sure unto us*: And he causeth us to feed upon the hidden Manna, blessed be his name for ever: For he is large in his Mercies, and plenteous in his Redemption to our souls: *And if we should deny him before men, then might he justly deny us before his Father*, and deprive us of his living refreshments which we enjoy, and of his presence which is better than life unto us, and so cause him to pour down his fierce wrath and indignation upon us, and for ever to blot our names out of the book of Life. And so for these Reasons, (do I declare unto you in the fear of the Lord) dare we not bow to your Law which is made against Conscience; For Conscience is Christs Throne, and none ought to usurp Authority there: *So Bind not the Spirit of the Lord, nor limit the holy one of Israel unto a Form*: But in love to your souls, I advise you, to let the Lord alone, prescribe him not a Way, but leave the work to himself, for he is the only wise. It is he, even he that con-

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founds the Wiſedom of the wiſe, and turns the Counſel of the prudent backward. For *Is not the wiſdome of this world, fooliſhneſs with God?* In the fear of the Lord therefore (oh friends) take heed what you do, for the Lord will be too hard for all fleſh: Bryars and Thorns cannot ſtand before him in battle, when he (*That is a conſuming fire*) ariſes to plead the cauſe of his ſuffering ſeed. Oh be warned whilſt you have a day; and remember hard-hearted *Pharaoh*, who would not let *Iſrael* go free, but their God wrought their deliverance through the deſtruction of their enemies: And did he not reprove Kings for their ſakes, ſaying, *Touch not mine Anointed, and do my Prophets no harm?* And is he not the ſame God, and changes not? Or do you think that he hath forgotten to be gracious? Or is the ſighs of the poor, and the groans of the needy hid from him? Nay ſurely, he is the ſame as ever he was, and will aſſuredly deliver his people (in his own appointed time) in this day, as ever he did in the dayes that are paſt: *Therefore conſider well theſe things all ye that forget God, leſt he vex you in his wrath, and conſume you in his ſore diſpleaſure, when there is none to deliver.* Ah! Why ſhould you bend your bowes, and make your Arrows ready to ſhoot at an innocent people, whoſe God is the Lord, who never harmed nor wiſhed evil to you, but ſeeks the Lord on your behalfs, and ſupplicates him with brokenneſs of ſpirit, that you might not periſh in your gain-ſaying, but that you might turn unto him that ſmites, wounds, and reproves you in ſecret, and lets you ſee all the outgoings of your minds, and vain imaginations of your hearts, when no eye ſees you, nor ear hears you.

This is he that would gather you up to God: Oh friends, reſiſt him not any longer, he hath long born your Iniquities, and long waited over you, to be gracious to you: Oh turn, turn at his Reproof, Why will ye die in your tranſgreſſions? (Of a truth, *He delights not in the death of a ſinner*) Why ſhould his head be wet any longer with the dew, and his locks with the drops of the night? Oh that you could feel the breaking of my bowels over you, and the travel of my ſoul for you, that you might come to believe in Chriſt Jeſus the Light of the world, for he is near you, in whom the treaſures of life are to be found.

How

How soon would he shew mercy to you, and heal your backslidings; and though your sins were as red as scarlet, he would wash you, and cleanse you, he would purge you, and purifie you, and make you vessels of honour, and then would he open of the rivers of life to your souls; and make you taste of the pleasures which are at his right hand for evermore.

Oh friends, feel the bowels of an infinite God to you, whose mercies are unutterable, they cannot be declar'd! Oh how doth my soul earnestly invite you to *Come and taste and feel how good the Lord is*, that so you might come to comprehend with his people, what is the length, and height, and breadth, and depth of this Love of God which we enjoy in Christ Jesus.

My Counsel therefore and Advice unto all where this may come, is, That you lay aside all your carnal Weapons, and seek not by them to force us from our Beloved, for you never shall be able (the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it) so in vain do you expect it, for the Lord hath determined to exalt his Christ (the Light of the world) and to set him upon his holy Hill: For no weapon formed against him shall prosper, because he is the Heir of all things, and it is he that shall rule the Nations with a Rod of Iron: And though he now be trampled upon as an enemy, and his face more mared then any mans, and no beauty nor comliness to be seen in him, yet to him shall the gathering of the Nations be; and the Isles afar off shall come to the arising of his Glory: and though now his people be led as sheep to the slaughter; and given dayly into the hand of the Devourer and Dest over, and not thought worthy to live, nor tread upon English ground, *Yet the Lord of Hosts is our strength, the God of Jacob is our Refuge*: And though you feed his people with the bread of Affliction and water of adversity, yet the Lord forgets them not: And though it seems nothing to you to lay Families waste, and separate Wife from Husband, and Husband from Wife, Parents from Children, and Children from Parents, not considering that the Lord sees you; and whatsoever ye do to his Members, he takes as done unto himself; yea surely the Lord sees you, he laughs at you, he hath you in dirision, and where will you appear, when he comes to plead the cause of his own suffering seed,

which hath long groaned under such hard Task-makers, who will not let Israel go free to serve the Lord their God, according to the Leadings of his own spirit: Had it not been better for you, you had never been born? Will your then saying, You had a Law, stand you in stead, when the judge of all the world comes to plead with you, who now condems and reproves you, and lets you see, you ought not to do it: Consider these things all ye that forget God, lest he tear you in peices in his wrath, and there be none to deliver you: For we are as the Apple of his eye, the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his Flock: and mighty is our Deliverer, for there is nothing more desired by us then to do his Will, and in his heavenly Will do we lye down, where none can make afraid. Blessed be his Name for ever.

It hath been much upon my Spirit, to clear my self amongst you, who have been a Sufferer by you, for no other cause, then for calling upon the name of the Lord, and the clearing of his precious Truth and people, that so you might not plead Ignorance in the day of Account, for dreadful will the Lord our God be to all his Enemies, he will render himself in flames of fire upon the heads of all the workers of Iniquity. For this is he who you are contending against, before whom all Nations are as the drop of a Bucket, and the small dust in the ballance: And when the Lyon of the Tribe of Judah arises to plead the cause of his suffering people in the fierceness of his Wrath, where will you hide your selves; Neither Rocks, nor Mountains shall cover you from his dreadful Vengeance, when he comes to plead with you, for his day shall burn as an Oven, and all the wicked and ungodly shall be as stubble before him: for all flesh is as grass, and the glory of man as a flower, which flourisheth to day, and to morrow is cut down and withered.

So I exhort you all not to exalt your selves against your Maker, for he is determined to abase all flesh, and bring low all the loftiness of man, and to make all the tall Cedars of *Lebanon* to bow before him; and all the strong Oaks of *Bashan* will he cause to fall at his appearance, who will not that Christ Jesus the Light of the

world

would, the Son of his Love should Reign, to whom all power in Heaven and in Earth is given, to whom we bear our testimony, who is as broad Rivers to our souls in this day. Glory be given to his Name for ever and for evermore.

Written by one who is a Lover of the souls of all people, and travels for the Redemption of the imbondaged Seed, which lies in spiritual Sodome *and* Egypt *in this day, as it did in the dayes of Old.*

From *Myddlewych*-house of
Correction in *Cheshire*
the 10. moneth 1665.

Mary Smith.

Printed in the year 1667.

HERE is another Warning which was given forth ſome years before, to the Majeſtrates and Miniſters (ſo called) of the City of *York*, and ſeveral Copies of it was given into their hands, but their hearts were hardened, and they rejected Counſel: ſo the Propheſie is fulfilled, and the Lord is clear of them, and his people hath Peace in him, *who forſakes them not* in the ſix troubles nor in the ſeaven. Glory to his Name for ever.

IN vain do you Rulers and *Magiſtrates* upon the earth conſult and take Counſel together againſt the *Lord* and his Chriſt: For I declare from the *Spirit* of the Lord, that there is no Weapon you form againſt him ſhall proſper.

Again I declare to you by the pure moving of the Spirit of the Lord God, that made heaven and earth, that by that power which we live in, (whom the world in ſcorn calls Quakers) and are led by, to bear our Teſtimony againſt this wicked generation. By that power, I declare again to you from the Lord, ſhall you all be broken to peices like a Potters veſſel, therefore in the dread and fear of the holy God, am I made to warn you in love to all your ſouls, that Repentance may be found amongſt you in this day when he requires it of

you;

you, that your deſtruction come not ſuddenly, and your Calamity like an armed man, then your Maker will not ſave you, nor he that formed you, will not pitty you.

Therefore this is a Viſitation from the Lord God to you all about this City of *York*, who are called Aldermen and Juſtices of the Peace or Miniſters, Chuſe whether you will hear or forbear, the Lord is clear of your blood, and this ſhall ſtand a witneſs againſt you for ever.

Written by one who is a Lover of all your ſouls, whoſe name is known to you after the fleſh to be

Mary Smith.

From *Ouſe-bridge* Priſon
the 9. day of the 7. moneth 1659.

The End.